

PRESS RELEASE

September 20, 2006

USAID/WEST AFRICA AND CILSS SIGN \$18 MILLION GRANT AGREEMENT TO SUPPORT REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

Accra, Ghana – The United States Agency for International Development West Africa Office (USAID/West Africa) has signed an agreement with the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (French Acronym is CILSS) for a total amount of \$18,047,689 to promote greater agricultural productivity, strengthen early warning and response systems, disseminate best practices and technologies regionally and help cotton producers improve their yields and incomes. Activities will also promote the sound management of water and other natural resources. The agreement was signed by Dr. Musa Mbenga, Executive Secretary, CILSS and Dr. Jatinder Cheema, Mission Director, USAID West Africa.

The program will focus on three main areas: Agricultural Sector Productivity and Food Security, Agricultural Policy Development, and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources. Support is also provided for strengthening regional institutions leading the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program including CILSS, the Economic Community of West African States, and the West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development. Countries benefiting from this program include: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo.

The activities under this agreement will be implemented through CILSS and other regional organizations; U.S. grants and contracts with non-governmental organizations; and public/private alliances.

For more information, please contact: Program Office, USAID/West Africa

U.S. Agency for International Development West Africa Mission E45/3 Independence Ave. P.O.Box 1630, Accra-Ghana	Tel: 233-21-228440/780580 Fax: 233-21-770101/231937 www.usaid.gov/missions/warp	
--	--	--